

July 20, 1999

8592 '99 JUL 27 P1:57

Docket Management Branch
(HFA-350)
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

In reference to: Docket #98N-1038 (irradiation in the production, processing and handling of food)

To Whom It May Concern:

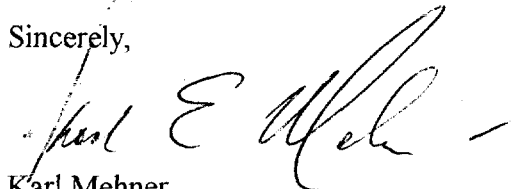
I am a high school teacher in public high school in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This particular matter has and will continue to be a subject of interest and discussion with my classes.

I am in agreement with the FDA's original reason for labeling irradiated food: Irradiation is a process which can change the taste, texture, storage characteristics and nutrients of a food. The current labeling law insists that the terminology "treated with radiation" or "treated by radiation" be used, as well as the radura symbol to be used for whole foods.

The FDA requires all labeling to be truthful and not misleading in any way. Changing the wording from its current terminology to something which might be considered less scary to the consumer is unacceptable. The consumer has the right to be very clearly informed about the product. Labels must be very obvious and clear in wording, not misleading, and in a prominent location on the product (or by the product in the case of whole or unpackaged foods).

Full disclosure in reference to the labeling of irradiated foods of any kind is a must because the FDA's original reason for labeling is still very valid, the fact that irradiation is a process which can change various characteristics of food. Full and clear disclosure will avoid misleading the consumer.

Sincerely,



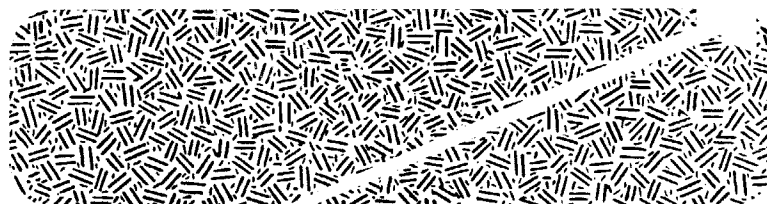
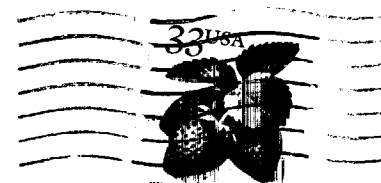
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